

for winning the 2022 Quality Award at their national conference.

Big Brothers Big Sisters aims to connect mentors, or “bigs,” with local youth, known as “littles.”

This prestigious Quality Award is granted to only a third of chapters in the country. To achieve it, the chapter must succeed in having 73 percent of mentors meet with a youth member for a whole year. Additionally, 54 percent of participants must meet with their “littles” at school for that year.

The Harrisburg-Rockingham chapter knocked that standard out of the park, reporting a 70 to 80 percent meeting success rate.

According to Lindsay Douglas, the executive director of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham chapter, the reason for the chapter’s superb performance is strong communication between the mentors, children, and their parents.

It is community organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters that foster an environment where our youth can thrive.

Congratulations, again, to the Harrisburg-Rockingham chapter.

#### UPHOLDING OUR END OF THE PACT WITH VETERANS

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, this week, we are making history as we pass the Honoring Our PACT Act and move one step closer to sending the legislation to President Biden’s desk to be signed into law.

The journey to this point has been long. As a member of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, I was proud to be an original cosponsor of the PACT Act when we introduced it over a year ago.

Now, we are finally at the finish line, ready to expand healthcare to 3.5 million veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service.

We are upholding our end of the pact we made with our veterans to ensure they have the care they need and deserve when they come home.

I am grateful to the veterans and military families in my community who have made their voices heard on this urgent cause, and I am thankful for the tireless advocacy of the VSOs across the country who have made this moment possible.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDWARD C. MAHEN

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly great American, Mr. Edward C. Mahen, who unfortunately died last fall. This was an amazing man, and he will be missed.

Mr. Mahen was a dedicated civil servant, an Air Force combat veteran, and an extraordinary engineer with more than 50 years of service to our country.

In 1972, Ed joined the Air Force. In Vietnam, he earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses and eleven Air Medals flying 144 combat missions. He retired as a colonel in 1997 after a career of assignments in classified strategic and electronic warfare programs.

In 1998, Ed was recruited by the director of the NRO to become the chief technology officer for the Advanced Systems and Technology Directorate.

He was a remarkable leader. He left a legacy within the IC by hiring and guiding a new generation of IC professionals.

May he rest in peace. May his wife and family be comforted knowing he was a true patriot, a true friend, and one who endlessly loved his family and this country.

#### HONORING JUAN CARLOS REYNAGA

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor and celebrate the life of my constituent, Juan Carlos Reynaga.

Juan was 17 years old; he was a lineman for Anaheim High School varsity football team, and he was keeping his grades up. He wanted to become a certified crane operator after graduating from high school.

Sadly, last Friday, after working his late-night shift at Walmart, when he was walking home, a car drove up; two individuals in the car asked him: Are you a gangbanger? And he said: No, I am not a gang member. They shot him in the back, anyway, killing him.

Juan was a hardworking, honest young man. He was looking for the American Dream and working hard to achieve the American Dream. Sadly, his life was taken from him by gangbangers.

My heart goes out to his family. As the father of four, I can’t imagine the pain and the grief of losing your child to a senseless gang shooting.

Juan, thank you for giving us so much in your very short life.

Go Colonists.

#### REMEMBERING VINCENT BECHARD AND PRAYING FOR PETER KREINER

(Mrs. MCCLAIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. On July 8, there was a terrible car crash in Sherman Township in my district that involved two of my constituents, Vincent Joseph Bechard and Peter Kreiner.

Sadly, this tragedy took the life of 67-year-old Vincent from Marlette.

Vincent is survived by his children and several grandchildren. This horrific accident has also put 62-year-old Peter Kreiner, also from Marlette, in the hospital in critical condition.

Both men have championed the right to life and been decades-long devotees to our country, our communities, and its founding ideals. Their impact on their community will be felt long after this terrible tragedy.

My prayers go out to the families of Vincent and Peter, and I am asking my colleagues in this Chamber to please pray for Mr. Bechard’s family and for the speedy and full recovery of Peter Kreiner.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE IN THE CARIBBEAN

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on my amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that directs the Department of Defense, in conjunction with the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security, to assess the standing U.S. military force posture in the Caribbean Basin and the value, feasibility, and cost of increasing U.S. military capacity in the region.

The Caribbean region has long been a place of geopolitical exertion of power by foreign forces. Presently, China has planted flags in numerous Caribbean nations through investment and infrastructure. The United States is vulnerable from a national security posture.

This amendment is bipartisan, with support from our colleague representing the island of Puerto Rico, Congresswoman GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. This amendment is warranted, given the importance of the U.S. national security apparatus to capably fight transnational crime and protect U.S. national and regional security in the region. Too often, the Caribbean is ignored, and this amendment ensures that our Third Border is not forgotten as it confronts increasing regional political instability, hostile foreign engagement, and transnational criminal activity.

#### PRESIDENT BIDEN’S IDEOLOGICAL PURGE OF THE MILITARY

(Mrs. MILLER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, last week, the Biden administration announced that they are cutting off the benefits for 60,000 National Guard and Reserve soldiers who do not want to take the COVID vaccine.

We are losing some of our best and brightest servicemembers to the Biden administration’s ideological purge of our military.

President Biden’s military purge weakens America and emboldens our adversaries, especially China.